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Description

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**Shower Support**

The invention is based on a support with which a shower head may be mounted at a particular distance from a fixed location.

There are a wide variety of supports with which a shower head may be detachably, or permanently, mounted at a distance from a wall. In the case of a known support of that type, a pair of shower heads that may be pivoted about mutually parallel axes is arranged between the legs of a U-shaped, curved arm. The wall-mounting arm, which is configured from hollow, profiled stock, serves as a water conduit. The pair of shower heads are identically configured and simultaneously supplied with water from a common water supply.

Other types of wall-mounting supports have just a single shower head that is either attached directly to the arm, or is detachable therefrom.

The problem addressed by the invention is creating a shower support that will provide additional showering opportunities and means for devising showering procedures.

In order to solve that problem, the invention proposes a shower support having those features stated under claim 1. Elaborations on the invention are covered under subclaims.

In addition to the usual shower fixture or usual shower head, the shower support proposed by the invention thus has attached to it a second shower fixture that will hereinafter be referred to as an "additional shower fixture." The latter may beneficially be a showering fixture whose shape, dimensions, and/or design differ

from those of the main shower fixture. For example, it might be a small shower head, or one that yields a jet having a totally different structure.

In particular, under an elaboration on the invention, it may be provided that the additional shower fixture has its own water supply in order that it may be supplied with water, if desired, even water at a different temperature, independently of the main shower head, where it will be beneficial if it is provided that the additional shower fixture may be connected to the main shower fixture in order that the former may then be operated either in combination with the main shower fixture, or alone.

The separate water supply to the at least one additional shower fixture may be effected by, for example, providing that it has its own water supply in the form of its own shower hose. However, it will be particularly judicious if it is supplied with water via a channel arranged within the arm. That channel may, for example, be connected to a hose connected to a line coming from the mixer faucet, in the vicinity of the mounting fixture. However, it will also be feasible if the channel is connected directly to a water line inside the mounting fixture in order that no conduits will be visible from outside.

One way in which a water-supply channel may be configured is configuring the arm in the form of a length of hollow, profiled stock, at least out to the additional shower fixture.

The location at which the additional shower fixture is arranged may be chosen to suit the showering procedure desired. The additional shower fixture may, for example, be mounted immediately adjacent to, or even outboard of, the main shower fixture. However, it will be particularly judicious if it is arranged between the mounting fixture and the support for the main shower head. It may be mounted such that supplements the jet, or array of jets, exiting the main shower fixture.

Under an elaboration on the invention, it may be provided that the direction of the jet exiting the additional shower fixture is adjustable, where adjustments thereof may be accomplished by, for example, either altering the positioning of the additional shower fixture as a whole or altering merely part of the additional shower fixture. In particular, rotating it about a fixed, relative to the arm, axis represents one means of adjustment.

According to the invention, under an elaboration thereon, it may be provided that the at least one additional shower fixture is mounted on the side of the wall-mounted arm. If several additional shower fixtures are to be involved, it will be judicious to mount them on both sides of the wall-mounting arm. Of course, mounting an additional shower fixture on the underside of the wall-mounting arm will also be feasible, and is proposed by the invention.

If several additional shower fixtures are present, the invention proposes that all of them be supplied by a common water supply. Groups of additional shower fixtures may be formed, if desired, in which case, a single, common, water conduit supplying all additional shower fixtures of every group would be provided.

According to the invention, under an elaboration thereon, it may be provided that the at least one additional shower fixture is permanently attached to the arm, rather than being detachable therefrom, where "permanently attached" does not mean that the shower fixture involved is nonadjustable. "Permanently attached" shall also be construed as implying that the additional shower fixture involved will still be detachable using a tool. Attaching an additional shower fixture to the wall-mounting arm using a quick-connect coupler, for example, a plug-in connector, is also feasible, and is proposed by the invention. The plug-in connector employed will then be configured such that no water will exit when the additional shower fixture involved is detached.

It will be particularly beneficial if the arm may be pivoted about a horizontal, relative to its mounting fixture, axis in order that the receptacle for the hand-held shower head or shower head may be swung downward in order to adjust the shower head's location to suit users of various heights. That axis will then be orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of the arm. The arm may also be rotated about a horizontal axis coincident with its longitudinal axis in order to shift the direction of the jet exiting the shower head to the left or right.

According to the invention, it may be provided that, even if the wall-mounting arm is mounted on the mounting fixture such that it may be pivoted or rotated, the water conduit passes through the linkage joining them, which may be accomplished by, for example, providing a sealed feedthrough, or a hose passing through that linkage.

The shape of the wall-mounting arm may be arbitrary, provided that only a single additional shower fixture may be attached thereto, which dictates that the wall-mounting arm must have certain minimum dimensions. For example, under an elaboration on the invention, it may be provided that the wall-mounting arm is configured in the form of a fork whose tines may begin at a particular distance from the mounting fixture. If such a forked arm is employed, according to the invention, it may be provided that the additional shower fixtures are arranged on the outer faces of both of its tines, which will allow obtaining a more divergent array of jets, or a more divergent jet.

The shower head may, as usual, be supplied with water by a shower hose, in which case, the connector for connecting the shower hose to the water supply may also be located on the wall-mounting arm's mounting fixture.

Other features, details, and benefits of the invention will be evident from the following description of a preferred embodiment of the invention, the claims and the

abstract, whose wordings are herewith made part of this description by way of reference thereto, and the drawings, which depict:

Fig. 1 a schematized side view of a shower support according to the invention;

Fig. 2 a top view of the shower support shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 a second embodiment of a shower support according to the invention.

Fig. 1 depicts a greatly simplified side view of a shower support according to the invention. In the case of example shown, this shower support is mounted on a wall 1. A mounting fixture 2, which, in the case of the example shown, is in the form of a console 3, serves to attach it to the wall. The console 3 is bolted to the wall. Within the console 3, the shower support is connected to a water line, preferably one conveying mixed hot and cold water, coming from a mixer faucet. A wall-mounting arm 5 is pivoted on a protrusion 4 on the console 3. Its pivot axis is horizontal and normal to the plane of the paper, i.e., parallel to the surface of the wall. A setscrew that may be operated by a knob 6 holds the wall-mounting arm 5 in place at a particular angular position. The wall-mounting arm extends outward from the wall, from the mounting fixture 2, to its far end 7. A receptacle, which is not depicted in detail in Fig. 1, for a shower head 8 is attached to the wall-mounting arm 5 in the vicinity of the latter's far end 7. In the case of the embodiment shown, the shower head 8 is disk-shaped, although it might well have any other shape, and has a handgrip 9 that is slightly angularly offset from the plane of the shower head 8. A shower hose 10 that passes through the handgrip 9 and hangs downward therefrom, forming a loop, leads to the mounting fixture 2.

A pair of additional shower fixtures 11 that spray downward are attached to that side of the wall-mounting arm 5 that may be seen in Fig. 1. They are supplied with water through the interior of the wall-mounting arm 5, which is configured from a length of hollow, profiled stock.

Fig. 2 depicts a simplified view of the arrangement shown in Fig. 1. The wall-mounting arm 5 splits, commencing at a short distance beyond the location thereon where it is attached to the console 3, thereby forming a pair of tines 14 that are configured such that they diverge, but are parallel to one another in the vicinity of the far end 7 of the wall-mounting arm, where a receptacle 13 for the shower head 8 is provided between the tips 12 of the tines 14.

This top view shows that the additional shower fixtures 11 are attached to the outer faces of the pair of tines 14, which allows the additional shower fixtures 11, which spray downward, to generate an array of jets having a larger cross-sectional area.

Fig. 3 depicts another manner in which a shower support according to the invention might be configured. The embodiment shown in Figs. 1 and 2 has a forked, wall-mounting arm 5 that, when viewed from the side, is curved, but the embodiment shown in Fig. 3 has a solid wall-mounting arm 15. A conical receptacle 16 for a hand-held shower head is schematically depicted on the right end, i.e., far end, of the wall-mounting arm 15, in Fig. 3. The hand-held shower head may be inserted therein. In the case of the example shown, a pair of additional shower fixtures 11, one on either side of the wall-mounting arm 15, is arranged on the wall-mounting arm 15.

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